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WEEKEND EDITION MARCH 6-7, 2021

Sunday's  
weather

47 | 31



## Church Directory will resume next week

The Church Directory, which usually runs as a full page ad in the Saturday paper, will resume in next Saturday's paper. It will not run this week.

## Seeking sports stringers

Do you have a passion for writing, photography and local sports? The Wabash Plain Dealer is now accepting applications for paid stringers for the upcoming winter sports season. To apply, email your writing and photography clips, cover letter, resume and list of references to [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).

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## Wabash County Democratic Party to hold reorganization caucuses

The Wabash County Democratic Party is set to hold their reorganization caucuses at noon Saturday, March 6 in the west parking lot of the Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. The event will conclude by 1 p.m. A short meeting followed by the election of new officers will take place at that time, as well as new business. Only elected or appointed precinct-level committee members are eligible to vote and participate in this caucus.

## Women's Clubhouse set to re-open Tuesday, March 9

The Woman's Clubhouse "is excited to be

See PULSE, page A9

## Inside

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# INDOT, city propose East Street bridge over railroad tracks

## Pair of meetings set for this month to seek public input

By ROB BURGESS  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The city of Wabash has been trying to figure out how to reduce crashes between vehicles and trains for some time now.

In June 2020, Mayor Scott Long announced the closure of the Carroll Street

railroad crossing after a series of accidents involving several semis which had become stuck on the tracks. A few weeks after its initial closing, the intersection was re-opened. Capt. Matt Benson, Wabash Police Department (WPD) public information officer, said the problems began again soon after as another semi-trailer became stuck on the tracks, despite the increased signage.

Now, a new proposed In-

diana Department of Transportation (INDOT) project hopes to address that, and local and state leaders are seeking public input on the project.

On Thursday, INDOT strategic communications director Scott Manning said they, along with the city, would be hosting two events to inform residents and solicit feedback about a proposed Local Trax Railroad Grade Separation project.

Manning said the purpose of the project is to "improve safety and mobility by addressing the adverse effects of the current at-grade crossings."

"By constructing a bridge to carry the motorists and pedestrians over the railroad, safety is greatly improved by reducing the potential for train, vehicle and pedestrian collisions while simultaneously providing

See BRIDGE, page A12

# A Bible, a photo and a flag

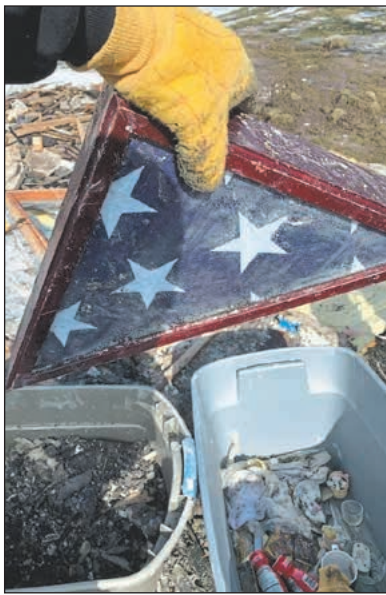


Provided photos

The family Bible had been passed down to Sherry Swinger.



This photo is of Sherry Swinger's parents, who are deceased.



Sherry Swinger said this folded flag was from her father's funeral.

## Lincolnville homeowner loses most everything in fire, except three special items

By ROB BURGESS  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The last time Sherry Swinger looked at her clock before she fell asleep in the early hours of Sunday, Feb. 7, the clock indicated it was 12:08 a.m.

Swinger said took sleeping pills which "knocks me out in like five minutes" because of the effects of a recently-completed year of chemotherapy to treat cancer.

Swinger said the thing she knew it was 1:25 a.m. and the alarms in her over century-old, two-story, 3,400 square foot home in the middle of Lincolnville were all going off.

"When I came down from upstairs there was smoke filling the house and there was fire shooting out of the wall next to the gas fireplace," said Swinger. "The fireplace was turned off when I went to bed, but they said maybe if it was on earlier, maybe it got hot in the walls. They don't really know. They said it was probably smoldering when I went to bed."



Sherry Swinger said the house had been in her family for over half a century.

Swinger said her nephew, who also lives with her, was at work. However, her 15-year-old half-Manx cat, Baby, was still inside.

"I had to go back and find him," said Swinger. "He was OK, thank goodness."

Swinger said the Lagro Volunteer Fire Department, Noble Township Fire Department, LaFontaine Liberty Volunteer Fire Department, Andrews Volunteer Fire Department, Mount Etna Fire Department and the Lagro and Lincolnville Volunteer

See FIRE, page A3



Baby is a 15-year-old half-Manx cat who was saved from the flames by Swinger.

# North Manchester funds two educational groups

## Learn More Center, Manchester Early Learning Center funding approved Wednesday

By ROB BURGESS  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

A pair of local educational organizations will receive a funding boost thanks to a pair of votes by the North Manchester Town Council.

During Wednesday's regular monthly meeting, the Learn More Center was unanimously approved for \$6,150 in funding and the Manchester Early Learning Center was approved for \$25,000.

At last month's regular meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 3, Learn More Center director of education Cynthia Johnson first presented their request. Johnson said they would use \$1,150 to provide 10 high school equivalency (HSE) scholarships to students in North Manchester, \$2,500 for an HSE examiner and supplies and \$2,250 for community outreach.

District 5 councilmember Gary Montel said he would abstain from voting on the Learn More Center item as he has "worked very part-time there."

At a special mid-month meeting held Tuesday, Feb. 16, clerk-treasurer Carrie Mugford said the council first discussed the funding request from Manchester Early Learning Center.

Mugford said the new director Mike Baker and board president Toby Tobias were present to give financial information and an overview of the projected path of the center. Mugford said the center currently has 38 students and they believe they can break even at 60 students.

"The goal is to have 60 students by the end of the year," said Mugford.

At Wednesday's meeting, District 4 councilmember Allen Miracle said the council has worked with them in the past, with several council members having been involved in bringing a new facility in town.

"COVID-19 really presented them with some major issues," said Miracle.

In their request, Tobias said state regulations they could

See FUNDING, page A3

## WCSD to seek new deputy

## Commissioner gives department OK to hire, despite a freeze

By ROB BURGESS  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The Wabash County Sheriff's Department (WCSD) will soon be able to begin the process of hiring a new deputy after being given an exception to the county's current hiring freeze.

The authorization was given during Monday's Wabash County Board of Commissioners meeting after Sheriff Ryan Baker asked for permission to hire for the open position.

"The vacancy is because someone left," said Baker on Thursday.

The county is currently under a hiring freeze, and the board was required to sign off before the process of hiring for the open position could begin.

After a short discussion, the board approved the motion unanimously.

Baker said the timeline to fill the position would be anywhere between two to three months.

Wabash County is far from the only governmental entity to institute a hiring freeze in recent months.

In April 2020, Indiana's state government has imposed a widespread hiring freeze and other limits on spending as officials braced for a major

See DEPUTY, page A12

# Certain career tech courses on chopping block in state budget proposal

By TIM TEDESCHI  
Chronicle-Tribune Managing Editor

High school students across the state could have access to fewer career and technical education (CTE) courses if provisions currently included in the state's budget bill are passed into law.

Currently, the state funds various courses at different levels based on a formula developed by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. Courses are designated as high, moderate or less than moderate value with the corresponding dollars decreasing at each level.

Mark Hobbs, director at Heartland Career Center in Wabash (where 40 Oak

Hill students take courses), said the formula takes into account economic demand, workforce demand and average wages among other things when determining what level a specific course falls into. High value courses include precision machining and welding, moderate value includes criminal justice and automotive services and less than moderate value includes cosmetology and culinary arts, he said.

House Bill 1001, the state's biennial budget bill, includes language that would remove funding for less than moderate programming.

"That money that was taken from those programs have been moved up into

the higher quality, harder CTE courses and categories," Rep. Timothy Brown (R-Crawfordsville), chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, said in a committee meeting Feb. 11.

At one point during the Feb. 11 committee meeting, Brown said the cuts would predominantly affect cosmetology and "food cooking." Heartland culinary arts teacher and Marion City Councilman Brad Luzadder said the characterization of his discipline as simply cooking food shows a lack of understanding on the subject.

"It also shows that he does not find value in Culinary

See COURSES, page A3



# Salamonie and Mississinewa Lakes to hire seasonal positions

Mississinewa Lake and Salamonie Lake are hiring seasonal employees for this summer, according to interpretive manager Teresa Rody.

Openings at Mississinewa Lake are available for gate attendants, gate attendant shift lead, concessions employees, concessions supervisor, security, and laborer staff. If interested, apply at [www.Careers.IN.gov](http://www.Careers.IN.gov) be sure to search zip code 46970. For more information, call 765-473-6528. Positions available at Salamonie Lake are for an interpretive naturalist, gate attendant, security, and beach attendant. If interested, apply at [www.Careers.IN.gov](http://www.Careers.IN.gov) be sure to search zip code 46702. For more information, call 260-468-2125.

# Manchester University announces Fall 2020 Dean’s List

By ANNE GREGORY

At the end of each semester, the Office of Academic Affairs publishes the Dean’s List. Manchester University congratulates 382 undergraduate students who were named to the Fall 2020 Dean’s List, including:

- Rex Addair, of North Manchester, is majoring in software engineering.
- Ava Barefoot, of North Manchester, is majoring in history and Spanish.
- Bryan Bathke, of North Manchester, is majoring in accounting and business management.
- Tasha Brubaker, of North Manchester, is majoring in environmental studies and biology.
- Keeli Friedersdorf, of Laketon.
- Madeline Dazey, of Wabash, is majoring in social work.
- August Elliott, of Wabash, is majoring in elementary education.
- Kennedy Fillmore, of North Manchester, is majoring in public relations.
- Samantha Hendricks, of Wabash, is majoring in music.
- Brooklyn Howard, of North Manchester, is majoring in early childhood and elementary education.
- Tyler Hudson, of Roann, is majoring in environmental studies.
- Chloe Leckrone, of North Manchester, is majoring in peace studies.
- Benjamin Nesler, of North Manchester, is majoring in psychology and religious culture.
- Bethany Pegg, of North Manchester, is majoring in psychology.
- Dakota Prater, of Liberty Mills, is majoring in biology.
- Alina Reed, of Wabash, is majoring in digital media arts.
- Brooklyn Schumm, of North Manchester, is majoring in biology.
- Gage Sheppard, of North Manchester, is majoring in accounting.
- Mackenzie Sheridan, of Wabash, is majoring in music.
- Amira Siddiqui, of Wabash, is majoring in history.
- Elijah Smith, of North Manchester, is majoring in history.
- Hallie Sorg, of North Manchester, is majoring in biology-chemistry.
- Angel Wehrly, of Wabash, is majoring in marketing.
- Austin Wieland, of North Manchester, is majoring in early childhood and elementary education.






Students earning a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher who have completed at least 12 semester hours with no more than three hours of Pass/Not Pass grades are included on the Dean’s List. Students with more than one hour of Incomplete (I) or Not Recorded (NR) grades at the end of the semester are not eligible for the Dean’s List.

To graduate with distinction, a candidate for the bachelor’s degree must have completed a minimum of 96 semester hours at Manchester University and accumulated a grade point average that falls in the ranges outlined below:

- summa cum laude 3.950-4.000
- magna cum laude 3.850-3.949
- cum laude 3.650-3.849





*Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.*

### 5-Day Weather Summary

 <b>Saturday</b> Mostly Sunny 45 / 24	 <b>Sunday</b> Sunny 47 / 31	 <b>Monday</b> Mostly Sunny 59 / 40	 <b>Tuesday</b> Mostly Cloudy 62 / 48	 <b>Wednesday</b> Mostly Cloudy 61 / 53
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#### Sun and Moon

Today's sunset ..... 6:41 p.m.  
Tomorrow's sunrise ..... 7:06 a.m.

 New 3/13	 First 3/21	 Full 3/28	 Last 4/4
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#### Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a high temperature of 46°, humidity of 41%. West wind 2 to 9 mph. Expect clear skies tonight with an overnight low of 24°. Southeast wind 3 to 7 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 20°. Sunday, skies will be sunny with a high of 47°, humidity of 41%.

# SBC culture – is ‘Southern’ more important than ‘Baptist’?

When megachurch pastor J.D. Greear became the 62nd president of the Southern Baptist Convention, he saw all kinds of statistics headed in all kinds of directions.

After decades of growth, America’s largest Protestant flock faced steady decline as many members joined thriving nondenominational evangelical and charismatic churches. Ominously, baptism statistics were falling even faster. On the other side of the 2018 ledger, worship attendance and giving to SBC’s national Cooperative Program budget were holding strong.

But one set of numbers caught Greear’s attention, he told the SBC’s executive committee, as he hears the end of his three years in office.

“Listen, I made diversity ... one of my goals coming into this office, not because it’s cool, or trendy, or woke,” he said. “It’s because in the last 30 years, the largest growth we’ve seen in the Southern Baptist Convention has been among Black, Latino and Asian congregations. They are a huge part of our future. ... Praise God, brothers and sisters.”

Greear’s blunt, emotional address came during a Feb. 22 meeting in Nashville in which SBC leaders ousted two churches for “affirming homosexual behavior” by accepting married gay couples as members, and two more for employing ministers guilty of sexual abuse.

Those issues loomed in the background during Greear’s remarks, which ranged from a fierce defense of the SBC’s move to the right during 1980s clashes over “biblical inerrancy” to his concerns about “demonic” attacks from social-media critics

who are “trying to rip us apart.”

“I’ve read reports online that I was privately funded by George Soros with the agenda of steering the SBC toward political liberalism,” he said. “My office has gotten calls from people who say they’ve heard that I am friends – good friends – with Nancy Pelosi and that we text each other regularly; that I am a Marxist; a card-carrying member of the Black Lives Matter movement and that I fly around on a private jet paid for by Cooperative Program dollars.”

Greear urged a renewed focus on evangelism and church planting, with a steady drumbeat of references to the Great Commission – the command by Jesus that Christians should spread the faith worldwide. After all, back in 2012, the SBC’s national meeting approved the use of “Great Commission Baptists” as an unofficial name – a move hailed by those seeking distance from the term “Southern” and the convention’s roots in an 1845 split over slavery.

“Do we want to be a Gospel people or a Southern, Republican culture people?” asked Greear. “Which is the more important part of our name – the ‘Southern’ or the ‘Baptist’?”

The ultimate challenge, he said, will be creating a “movement of churches that engages all of the peoples in America, not just one kind. ... That is very difficult. Bringing together people of different backgrounds and cultures and ethnicities into one body creates challenges, and anybody who says that

that’s not true has never actually done it. People bring in their music and their style preferences and political approaches and they all are as passionate about these things as we are, and that creates friction. But it is biblical.”

In recent months, leaders of the SBC’s National African American Fellowship have expressed concerns about statements by seminary presidents that – while condemning racism outright – claimed “affirmation of Critical Race Theory” is incompatible with the Baptist Faith and Message doctrinal statement. Several prominent Black pastors, in response, led their congregations out of the convention.

Greear stressed the need for SBC leaders to commit to more “robust, Bibles open, on our knees” dialogues with Black church leaders on what parts of CRT are inherently secular and clash with biblical teachings on racism and sin.

“We should mourn when closet racists and neo-Confederates feel more at home in our churches than do many of our people of color,” he said.

The painful reality is “that if we in the Southern Baptist Convention had shown as much sorrow for the painful legacy that racism and discrimination have left in our country as we have passion to decry Critical Race Theory, we probably would not be in this mess. It’s not that clarity about the dangers of Critical Race Theory is not important. It is. It’s that, as Jesus said, we’ve ignored some of the weightier parts of the law – justice, mercy and compassion.”

*Terry Mattingly leads GetReligion.org and lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He is a senior fellow at the Overby Center at the University of Mississippi.*

# Indiana man rescued after 3 days lost inside a storm drain

CONNERSVILLE (AP) — An eastern Indiana man who became lost after entering a storm drain to avoid his probation officer was rescued early Friday after spending at least three days in the chilly drainage system, police said.

A Connersville police officer heard the 35-year-old man crying for help about 2 a.m. Friday and followed his cries to where the man was below ground in the drain, police said.

Firefighters and emergency medical personnel later pulled the man through a manhole in the middle of a street.

Connersville’s assistant fire chief, Nate Stevens, told The Indianapolis Star the man had become lost in the dark of the storm sewer beneath the city about 50 miles east of Indianapolis.

Fire department personnel reported the man was found wearing pajama pants and a sweatshirt when he was rescued, and a police report states that he was “shaking violently” after his ordeal.

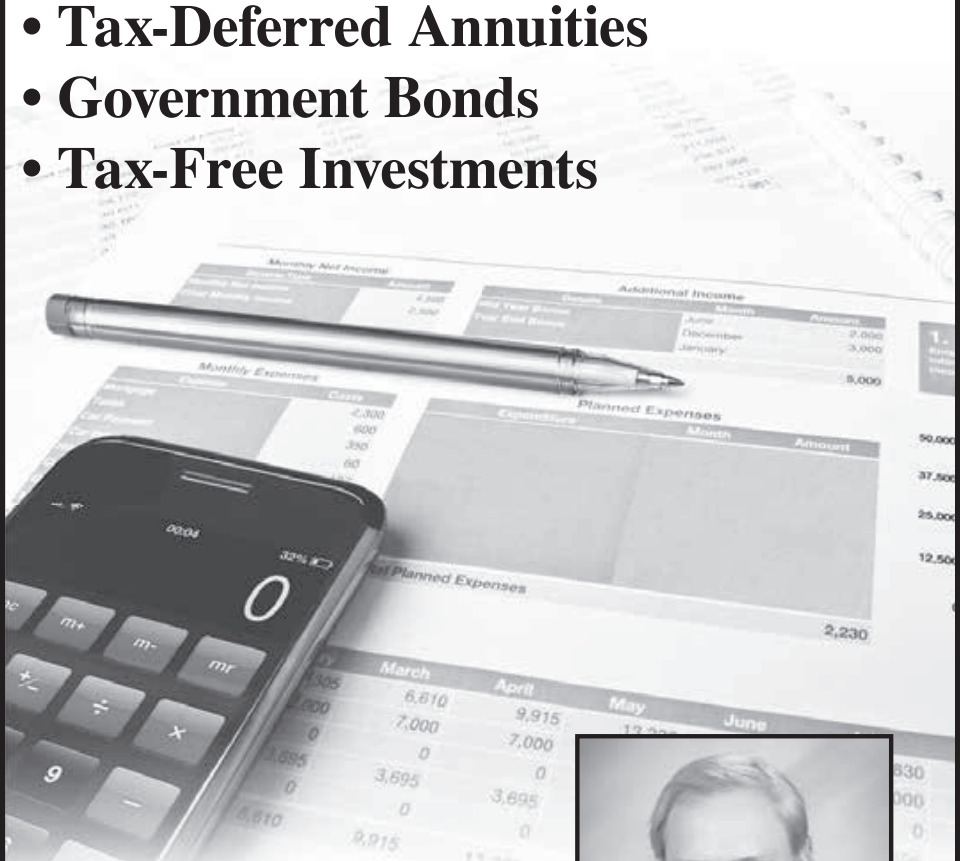
Nighttime temperatures in the area fell below freezing over the last few days, according to the National Weather Service.


After the man was taken to a hospital, he told police he entered the drainage system “at least three days” prior near the Whitewater River, about a quarter-mile from where he was found.

The man, who was convicted in 2019 of dealing methamphetamine, told officers he “entered the pipe because he was running from his probation officer.”


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# Obituaries

## James ‘Jim’ R. Spiece

Sept. 8, 1946 – Feb. 27, 2021

James “Jim” R. Spiece of Fort Wayne, Indiana formerly of Wabash, Indiana, died Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021 unexpectedly while wintering in Green Valley, Arizona. He was born Sept. 8, 1946 in Wabash, Indiana to Richard I. and BetteJune Spiece.

He attended Culver Military Academy and graduated from Wabash High School in 1964. Jim attended Indiana University and graduated with a B.S. in 1969 after serving 2 years in the US Army stationed in Germany. He married Glenda (Oswalt) in Fort Wayne, Indiana on Aug. 19, 1978.

He is survived by his wife, brothers Bill (Leveta) of Kokomo, Tom of Wabash and sister Cynthia of Los Angeles, California, nephews Jashub Absher (Sheva) of Los Angeles, California, Matt Brake (Jerrina) and Mark Vickers of Kokomo, Indiana and Mandelyn Rewerts of Phoenix, Arizona.

Jim was a graphic designer

and type designer who enjoyed resurrecting old type-faces. As he said finding a complete set of characters can often be a challenging task. It took him down into the musty basements of public libraries and out into the world of flea markets and hole-in-the-wall bookstores. After careful scanning and hand-outlining, he had occasionally to dig deeper for a missing punctuation mark or double-f ligature. Jim chuckled, “These are all minor inconveniences when you consider you’ve brought these faces back from obscurity and found them new homes. Besides, it’s fun. In one sense, my own designs are a lot easier because they never had a previous life!”

Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash. The memorial guest book for Jim may be signed at [www.grandstaff-hentgen.com](http://www.grandstaff-hentgen.com). Preferred memorial is Community Foundation of Wabash County.

## Annabelle ‘Ann’ Long

Services for Annabelle “Ann” Long, 87, of rural Peru, Indiana were 10 a.m., Thursday, March 4, 2021 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

Evangelist Shane Capps officiated and Susan Vanlandingham was the musician. Memories were shared by

family and friends. Pallbearers were Caleb Tague, Tyler Long, Zachary Vannette, Isaac Long, Josh Long, and Eric Knight. Burial was in Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash.

Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

## Joseph Earl Bakehorn

Services for Joseph Earl Bakehorn, 94, of Wabash, Indiana were 10 a.m., Friday, March 5, 2021 at Wabash Alliance Church, Wabash.

Todd Render officiated and Luvernia Wilson and Gail Vaughn were the musicians. Eulogy by Larry Vigar. Pallbearers were Todd Houser, Daniel Townsend,

Alyvia Floor, 12, North Manchester, died tragically on March 2, 2021. Alyvia was born on March 31, 2008 in Warsaw, Indiana.

Alyvia is survived by her father, Aaron Floor; mother, Ashley “Blanca” Hernandez; grandparents, Carl and Lisa Floor, Sandra Hernandez, and Raymond Hernandez; great-grandparents, Rosalee Middleton, Wayne and

## Alyvia Floor

March 31, 2008 – March 2, 2021

Dorothy Singer; aunts and uncle, Jamie Teeter, Angela Hernandez, Janette Farmer, and Marty Middleton.

Calling Sunday, March 7, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at McKee Mortuary, 1401 State Road 114 West, North Manchester. A private service will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

## Ryan Henderson

May 29, 1992. – March 2, 2021

Ryan Henderson, 28, North Manchester, died at home on March 2, 2021. Ryan was born in Urbana, Illinois, on May 29, 1992.

Ryan is survived by his father and mother, Kurt and Rhonda Henderson; brother, Kyle (Stephanie Salinas) Henderson; half-brother, Scott (Jessica) Bailey; grandparents, Daniel (Audrey) Henderson, Cathy

French, Larry and Peggy Rascher.

Calling Thursday, March 4, 2021 from 3 to 8 p.m. at McKee Mortuary, 1401 State Road 114 West, North Manchester. Funeral services will be Friday, March 5, 2021 at 2 p.m. with calling beginning at 1 p.m. at McKee Mortuary.

Final arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

## Clarence ‘Fuzz’ Betten

May 15, 1938 – March 4, 2021

Clarence “Fuzz” Betten, 82, Laketon, passed away on March 4, 2021. Fuzz was born on May 15, 1938 in Servia, Indiana, to Andrew and Hattie (Overlander) Betten.

Fuzz is survived by his sons, Michael (Kelly) Kerr and Matthew (Amanda) Kerr; daughters, Laura, Lynda, and Lori Betten; sisters,

Marie Niccum and Evelyn Clark; and six grandchildren.

Calling Saturday, March 6, 2021 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Laketon Cemetery, Wabash County Road 200 West and 950 North, Laketon. Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m.

The family of Clarence “Fuzz” Betten has entrusted McKee Mortuary with final arrangements.

VFW Post 286 and the United States Army Honors Team.

Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

## FIRE

From page A1

Fire Department responded to the blaze and worked for several hours.

By the time the fire was out much later in the morning, practically everything in the house was destroyed. Swinger said all she and her nephew had was the clothes on their backs.

“I had a pair of sweats and T-shirt on to get out the door,” said Swinger. “I was calling 911 and the neighbor guy came across and said, ‘Get your shoes on.’ So I got my boots. (My nephew) was just at work and he had his old work clothes on.”

Swinger said after they were able to survey the damage, only three items that were in the house at the time of the fire were spared: A Bible, a photo and a flag.

Swinger said the family Bible had been passed down to her.

Swinger said the picture was of her parents, who are both deceased.

Swinger said the folded American flag was from her father’s funeral. Swinger said before he died, her father had helped her remodel the home, which had been in their family for over 55 years. Swinger said the remodeling job took three years and she had moved back in by 2004.

“These were all laying under the third floor that landed on top of the second floor when the house crashed down,” said Swinger. “We found them when they lifted the third floor off of the second floor. The glass was not even broken in the case for the flag or the picture. This was amazing that they survived and all three are so important and to me.”

Swinger said since the fire she has been living across the street and her



Provided photos

This is how the house appeared before the fire.



And this is how the house appeared after the fire.

nephew has been living with a relative.

“It’s going to be a long stressful road,” said Swinger. “It’s down to the ground. There’s nothing left. Nothing.”

Swinger said she was in the process of compiling information for her insurance claim, but trying to remember every single thing in a four-bedroom, three-bath home with a

“gigantic” kitchen, two living rooms and dining room was no easy task.

“I have to name everything off in the house to get any more money. It’s going to be by memory,” said Swinger. “It’s going to be hard. It’s stressful. It’s tearing my stomach up.”

To help financially, Swinger said her family set up a GoFundMe account and a post office box in her

name to accept monetary donations.

The address for the post office box is P.O. Box 46, Wabash, IN 46992.

For more information, visit <https://www.goFundMe.com/f/house-fire-relief-fund-for-sherry-swing>.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).*

## FUNDING

From page A1

not keep student-teacher ratios at “breakeven level.”

“We also were unable to hold most of our usual in-person fundraisers,” said Tobias. “These funds will

cover payroll for six month while the census recovers.”

Tobias said they were at a low of 17 students at the height of COVID-19.

Tobias said they are the only full state-licensed center in the county and have provided preschool and childcare to the community

for 50 years.

“This grant will keep the doors open to our clients, our local families, teachers, line-workers, medical personnel and others,” said Tobias.

Tobias said payroll was their largest expense, and this funding would cover

15 percent of that for six months “when we expect to be on firmer financial ground as the census increases.”

“We expect to ask again,” said Tobias. “The pandemic has had long-term effects. For our fiscal strength, we will request again in the

# Governor gets virus shot at state’s 1st mass clinic

By TOM DAVIES

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb was jabbed with a COVID-19 vaccine shot when the state’s first mass vaccination clinic opened Friday morning at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

The governor was joined by Black elected officials who encouraged members of minority groups to put aside concerns and get vaccinated.

Holcomb wore a mask and sat in the front passenger seat of an SUV while getting his shot of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine at the drive-through clinic.

Holcomb said his message to Indiana residents is: “Do it, just do it.”

“This is going to help us beat COVID-19,” Holcomb, a Republican, said. “The more, the faster.”

The Indiana State Health Department said nearly 17,000 people snatched up four days of appointments at the speedway clinic from Friday through Monday. State officials are planning mass shot clinics for South Bend, Gary and Sellersburg during the next three weeks.

Holcomb, 52, had said he didn’t expect to receive the vaccine until his age group’s time arrived because he doesn’t have health problems. State health officials opened up Indiana’s vaccination eligibility on Wednesday to all residents 50 and older.

The state has recorded almost 12,700 confirmed or presumed coronavirus-related deaths over the past year, although Indiana’s COVID-19 death and hospitalization rates have fallen about 80 percent since their December peaks.

## COURSES

From page A1

Education,” Luzadder said in an email. “I am highly offended and would like to invite him to come and spend a day in the lives of my students and then see if he feels the same way.”

Hobbs said if the language in the bill passes into law, course offerings like cosmetology and culinary arts would “disappear” at Heartland.

Marion Regional Career Center (MRCC) Director Nate McNeely said when looking at the numbers, it appears the lack of funding for less than moderate combined with increased funding for high value courses would essentially even out for MRCC in terms of overall dollars coming in from the state. He said potentially this could allow the higher funding for high value courses to essentially subsidize the courses that are no longer receiving funding.

“When you look from a financial standpoint, raising the value of some of those high level classes can be beneficial for our district, but then also at what cost of losing opportunities for kids?” McNeely said. “And that’s the concern and the balance that I’m sure the legislators are looking at too is that same balance.”

Hobbs said although one goal of CTE is to set students up for careers or to go on to additional training so that they can support themselves and make a good living, there is more value to CTE programs than just the potential earnings down the road. He said the state’s plan to incentivize high value courses at the expense of disincentivizing less than moderate value courses is counterintuitive, noting even with the incentives not every student wants to go into a field like welding.

“At the high school level, that is not what we should be doing,” Hobbs said. “This is a time where it’s not costing money like at a college level to experiment and explore areas of interest.”

McNeely said more options being available for students means more opportunities to find their passion. On the other hand, robust CTE programming can help steer kids away from fields they think they’re interested in but learn they don’t enjoy once they take some courses, he said.

“What I always tell our students is if you try something and you find out you aren’t interested, that’s great too because by having that experience now that’s something you don’t have to try later in

life,” McNeely said. “Losing funding is never good ... I don’t want to lose opportunities for students.”

Hobbs said attendance rates for CTE classes are higher than traditional school classes, and some students routinely come in for classes even when their home district is closed for various reasons. That ownership of learning and developing new skills could be quenched if the funding is cut, he said.

Luzadder said even if using earning potential and other factors was the best way to calculate a course’s value, the current classification of the values of CTE courses is flawed in other ways. The formula can include restaurant servers and dishwashers along with head chefs when calculating average incomes, and according to Luzadder, slashing funding for less than moderate courses may also disproportionately affect female students who tend to have a higher participation rate in courses like cosmetology and culinary arts.

Luzadder said former students of his classes in Marion and Wabash now work all over the world including at bakeries, on cruise ships and at Michelin Star restaurants. Just as important as their success and earnings, though, is that these individuals followed their passions and are in careers that they love, Luzadder said.

Luzadder’s students also receive 16 college credit and Servsafe sanitation certifications honored by the National Restaurant Association, and his Heartland culinary arts program has been named as one of the Elite 50 culinary arts programs in the country for the past six years.

Outside of advocating to keep funding for less than moderate programs, Hobbs said there is more work the state can do to better support CTE education. He said the state currently foots the bill for every Advanced Placement test Hoosier high school students take but does not do so for student certification tests in fields like cosmetology, automotive services, welding and culinary arts, among others.

HB 1001 passed the House on Feb. 22 and is being considered in the Senate as both chambers work toward passing the biennial budget. Brown noted with a substantial bill like the budget, there is always potential for revisions along the way, and Hobbs said CTE educators across the state are in contact with legislators in hopes of restoring funding for less than moderate programs.

*Tim Tedeschi, Chronicle-Tribune editor, may be reached by email at [ttedeschi@chronicle-tribune.com](mailto:ttedeschi@chronicle-tribune.com).*

next 12 to 18 months before we can be sure of a full census of students.”

After both items were approved, Miracle said appreciated it and he was “sure they will also.”

“I appreciate your willingness to work with these local entities,” said Mira-

cle. “I appreciate the things they do for our community. When we help them, we’re helping a lot of different individuals in the community.”

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).*



# Opinion

## SPEAK UP

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## LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to [news@wabashplainedealer.com](mailto:news@wabashplainedealer.com) with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



## DAILY SCRIPTURE

A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.  
**Proverbs 16:28**

# Children crossing the border deserve fair treatment

The Biden administration's first big controversial move on the immigration front – a decision to open a large temporary holding facility for children who cross the border without their parents – appears to be motivated by commendable intentions.

President Joe Biden, as part of an effort to reverse his predecessor's most inhumane immigration policies, has called a halt to border agents turning back unaccompanied minors. The result of this, though, has been a challenging unintended consequence; the number of children crossing the border without parents has been shooting up, including 2,000 minors last week alone.

Unable to immediately find suitable placements for all these minors – with relatives or other government-approved sponsors – the Biden administration has reopened a Trump-era emergency facility in Carrizo Springs, Texas, for up to 700 children ages 13 to 17. It is a kind of massive camp, full of trailers, many miles from any big city or easy scrutiny.

Civil libertarians, child advocates and both Republicans and Democrat on Capitol Hill are decrying Biden's decision to open the facility, and we share their misgivings. It is essential that children be held there as briefly as possible – weeks, not months – which will require a massive ramping up of federal efforts to find appropriate placements.

That's a tall order during the COVID-19 pandemic. Largely because of the need for social

distancing, the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement, which is responsible for unaccompanied minors, has been unable to use even all of the 13,200 beds it already has. But it must be done. Once our nation accepts responsibility for these children, as it should, it has to live up to that responsibility.

It's essential that the 66-acre Carrizo Springs facility – and any similar facility – be fully transparent in its operations, open to monitoring by independent watchdog groups, lawyers and the media in a way that facilities for children during the Trump administration often were not.

Facilities such as that at Carrizo Springs should be run by nonprofits and closed as quickly as the realities of the pandemic allow.

A fundamental difference between then and now – between the Trump approach and the Biden approach to handling immigrant children – is that Trump viewed it as largely a law enforcement job while Biden appears to view it, more humanely, as a child welfare challenge.

So many of the children in Trump's facilities were, in fact, separated from their parents by Trump's own border agents; splitting up families was seen as a cruelly effective way of discouraging other families from attempting to cross the border illegally.

Biden, in contrast, faces the problem of tens of thousands of migrant children who are being taken into government custody without an accompanying

parent or legal guardian.

Trump's facilities were run by the U.S. Border Patrol – think cops. Biden's facility is being run by the Office of Refugee Settlement – think social workers.

As described by the Washington Post, the Carrizo Springs facility includes groups of beige trailers surrounding a white dining tent, a soccer field and a basketball court. There is a legal services trailer with a welcoming sign in Spanish – "Bienvenidos" – as well as trailers for classrooms, a barber shop and a hair salon. The facility has its own water supply.

There is little to suggest, that is to say, the "cages" of fencing in the hot Texas sun that so appalled visitors to Trump-era detention facilities for immigrant children.

Yet they are still "facilities." They are still "camps." They are not homes. They are not where children should be.

As Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez said in a tweet last week: "This is not okay, never has been okay, never will be okay – no matter the administration or party."

On Friday, Biden tried to assure critics that the Carrizo Springs facility is will be opened and closed quickly.

"Our hope and expectation," he said, "is that won't stay open very long, that we will be able to provide for every kid that comes across the border to safely be housed in a facility that is licensed."

We should all hold him to that.  
*This editorial was first published in the Chicago Sun-Times.*

# Commonsensical Hoosier self-defense

I will defend myself.  
I do not claim that as a "right." I merely state it as a fact. It is a biological imperative – is it not? – for an individual to decline to submit meekly to the murderous intent of others.

To that end, I possess a license to carry a handgun issued by the state of Indiana. I know many of my fellow licensees dislike revealing that, but it's a matter of public record, so I don't see the point. As to whether I actually carry a handgun, that will remain my secret, for the time being.

Now, the Indiana House has voted to allow "constitutional carry" in the state, meaning no license would be required for walking around with a handgun. The Senate and governor have yet to weigh in, but the topic has been opened for discussion.

And I admit to mixed feelings, which might surprise the gun-control crowd and alarm my gun-rights friends.

At this point, I know, those of you always calling for "common sense gun laws" are screaming about historical context and the Founders' real intent.

So, fine, let's see if we can disambiguate the Second Amendment a little bit, shall we? (Which annoys me no end, by the way. On any other important policy, you're all for a "living, breathing Constitution," but on this issue and this issue alone, you suddenly care about "original intent"? Please!)

Suppose I were to concede that the Founders, by prefacing the "right to keep and bear arms" phrase with the "well-regulated militia being necessary" qualifier did actually intend a collective right rather than an individual one, that they truly meant to arm citizens as members of state militias.

But then we have to examine why they did that.

The Second Amendment, indeed the whole of the Bill of Rights, was aimed at curbing the power of Congress, insisted on by Constitutional Convention delegates profoundly afraid of too much centralized power. One of the strongest transfers of power from the states to the federal government, in comparing the Constitution to the Articles of Confederation, was the creation of a standing army controlled federally. So, the states demanded control of their own militias.

And by extension, if you follow this "original intent" argument, the states would control the keeping and bearing of arms, with no "infringement" by the federal government.

So, gun control was meant to be a state issue. Can you acknowledge that, even if you don't like it?

The Indiana's Constitution's language on guns is clear and direct. Article I, Section 32 provides that "the people shall have a right to bear arms, for the defense of themselves and the State." No namby-pamby qualifier there. People have a right, yes, an individual right, to defend themselves.

Within the bounds of common sense, of course.

The Indiana Supreme Court has on numerous occasions ruled that the right to bear arms is subject to "reasonable regulation," and "reasonable" is a subjective term we may argue about all day. On the one hand, the court ruled that a person's mere possession of a gun is no reason to detain someone while it is verified whether the person has a carry permit. On the other hand, the court has validated the state's "red flag" law that allows at least temporary confiscation of the guns of someone merely accused of being unfit.

So, while it is reasonable for the state to require carry permits (and the court has so ruled), it is also reasonable for it to end the requirement.

And, as I said, I have mixed feelings.

Removing the requirement should not affect public safety. The people not allowed to carry now (such as perpetrators of domestic abuse) still would not be able to carry. And those of who are law-abiding citizens won't have to pay fees and go through hoops to earn our self-defense.

But I can see the move making things harder for law enforcement, and it would also complicate things for gun carriers crossing state lines. It is already necessary to figure out which states have a reciprocal agreement regarding Indiana's carry permits. Trying to deal with interstate travel without a permit would be even more problematic.

So, whichever way it goes, I can accept it. I can deal with it.

What I will not do, with or without a state-issued permit, is give up my ability to defend myself. Why that is not a universal sentiment is a true puzzle.

Estimates vary, but there are at least 400 million guns in America, more than 100 million of them handguns. We will never get rid of them, and, furthermore, we cannot wipe the knowledge of guns out of our collective human consciousness.

So what matters is who has the guns and what they intend to do with them. "Gun control" should more properly be called "gun owner control." Most policies I've seen that are called "common sense" would make it harder for law-abiding gun owners and easier for the predators who use guns against the rest of us.

So, tell me about a policy that wouldn't in effect disarm the wrong people, and I'll listen. To state legislators only, please.

*Leo Morris, columnist for The Indiana Policy Review, is winner of the Hoosier Press Association's award for Best Editorial Writer. Morris, as opinion editor of the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, was named a finalist in editorial writing by the Pulitzer Prize committee. Contact him at [leoedits@yahoo.com](mailto:leoedits@yahoo.com).*

Leo

Morris



## LETTERS

### Utility workers keep Hoosiers healthy and safe during the pandemic

Indiana will mark an unfortunate milestone on March 6: The first anniversary of the state's first COVID-19 case.

In the early days of the pandemic, we all struggled to come to terms with the massive upheaval in our lives. As we shifted into an uncertain future, there was one constant piece of advice we all took to heart to slow the virus's spread: Wash your hands.

At the Indiana Section of the American Water Works Association (INAWWA), our member utilities and their employees took immediate steps to keep the water flowing. Since then, they have been relentless in ensuring Hoosiers have the essential water service they need to stay healthy and safe.

Our organization is the largest non-profit association serving Indiana's water industry. We are a part of the American Water Works Association, an international, non-profit, scientific and educational society dedicated to providing total water solutions assuring the effective management of water. Founded in 1881, the INAWWA is the larg-

est organization of water supply professionals in the world.

In Indiana, our utility members represent water systems of all sizes. Since the early days of the pandemic, they have been on the job performing critical functions such as: repairing and maintaining water mains to prevent service disruptions, testing and analyzing water quality for safety, reading meters, managing wastewater systems and preventing waterborne disease and continuing capital projects to strengthen infrastructure.

They have done all of this while adapting to rapidly evolving mitigation strategies such as social distancing, revised work practices, mask-wearing, and good hygiene. Our workers need to remain healthy to prevent service disruptions brought on by absenteeism.

In addition to daily operations, water utilities in Indiana, many of whom are INAWWA members, recognize that the unique circumstances presented by the pandemic require a unique response.

In the communities where our members live and work, their customers are more than an account number. Their customers are friends, families, and neighbors, which is why they continue to work with them through hardship situations,

often establishing payment plans and connecting their customers to critical resources in their communities. It's just what Hoosiers do in times of need.

At the same time, the INAWWA has stepped up our commitment to offering our members training and resources to help better equip them to fight this pandemic. Like many Hoosiers, we've taken our work online. From Michigan City to Madison, our members have done their day jobs, then returned to their offices to brush up on the latest in water safety.

As we look toward the coming months, we are grateful for the essential utility workers who continue to work so hard to keep our communities healthy and safe. We also are mindful of the sacrifices these workers have made during this challenging time.

The pandemic has taken so much from so many, but it also has reinforced our appreciation for the things we take for granted, like the water flowing from the tap that we use in so many ways. We are proud to be a part of safely and reliably delivering this essential natural resource to all Hoosiers.

**Ed Nugent  
Chair, Indiana Section,  
AWWA**

## HISTORY

Today is Saturday, March 6, the 65th day of 2021. There are 300 days left in the year.

**Highlight in history:**  
On March 6, 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Dred Scott v. Sandford, ruled 7-2 that Scott, a

slave, was not an American citizen and therefore could not sue for his freedom in federal court.

**On this date:**  
In 1475, Italian artist and poet Michelangelo was born in Caprese in the Republic of

Florence.

In 1836, the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, fell as Mexican forces led by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna stormed the fortress after a 13-day siege; the battle claimed the

lives of all the Texan defenders, nearly 200 strong, including William Travis, James Bowie and Davy Crockett.

In 1853, Verdi's opera "La Traviata" premiered in Venice, Italy. In 1944, U.S. heavy bombers

staged the first full-scale American raid on Berlin during World War II.

In 1962, what became known as the Ash Wednesday Storm began pounding the mid-Atlantic coast.



# LIFESTYLES

## A simple stew with big flavor

Here is something for your winter dinner rotation: chunky vegetables and slow-cooked beef swimming in a stock of beef and beer. This hearty no-nonsense beef stew is a must-have for a dreary winter night, and with St.

**Lynda Balslev**



Patrick’s Day around the corner, you can dump a bottle of Guinness into the stock and call it Irish. And, while this stew is indeed simple and humble in ingredients, there are a couple of important steps you can take when making this recipe that will reward you with deep flavor.

The first step, as with many meat stews and braises, is to take the time to sear the meat well before braising. Searing the meat caramelizes its natural sugars and forms a crust, which adds rich meaty flavor to the stock. And note that searing does not mean a quick color and flip. It means taking the time to thoroughly brown the meat well on all sides, which can take up to eight minutes. Also, do not overcrowd the pan with all of the meat at once when searing. Crowding will steam the meat and prevent the desired browning, so be patient and divide the meat into batches to sear.

Second, while you can certainly make and serve this stew in one day, it will taste even better if you make it a day in advance of eating. I know, I know, waiting is a big ask, but the flavors will continue to meld and develop when the stew is refrigerated over-

night. Not only that, but by refrigerating the stew ahead, the next day you will find that the fat has risen to the top and solidified, so it can be lifted off with ease and discarded, leaving you with a pristine stock. So, go ahead and treat yourself to this warm and comforting stew, and while you’re at it, why not make a double batch? Any leftovers can be frozen for up to one month. It’s guaranteed to taste good.

**Simple Beef Stew**  
**Active Time: 30 minutes**  
**Total Time: 3 1/2 hours**  
**Yield: Serves 4 to 6**  
**2 1/2 pounds beef chuck, excess fat trimmed, cut into 1-inch pieces**  
**Salt**  
**Freshly ground black pepper**  
**3 tablespoons olive oil, divided**  
**1 large shallot, finely chopped, about 1/4 cup**  
**3 cloves garlic, chopped**  
**1 1/2 cups dark beer, such as porter or stout, divided**  
**1/4 cup tomato paste**  
**3 cups beef or chicken stock**  
**1 bay leaf**  
**1 tablespoon brown sugar**  
**1 teaspoon dried thyme**  
**2 large carrots, sliced 1/4-inch thick**  
**2 medium Yukon gold potatoes, cut into 1-inch chunks**  
**1 large yellow onion, cut into 1-inch chunks**  
Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Season the beef with salt and pepper. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add the beef in batches in one layer, without overcrowding, and brown on all sides, 6 to 8 minutes. Transfer the meat to a plate and repeat with remaining beef. Pour off all but 1 tablespoon fat from the Dutch oven. Add the shallot and



Photo by Lynda Balslev for TasteFood

saute until soft, about 2 minutes. Add the garlic and saute until fragrant, about 30 seconds more. Add 1/2 cup beer to the pot and bring to a boil, scraping up any brown bits with a spoon. When the beer is nearly evaporated, add the tomato paste and cook, stirring constantly, until slightly caramelized, about

1 minute. Return the beef to the pot and stir to coat. Add the remaining 1 cup beer, the stock, bay leaf, brown sugar, thyme, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon black pepper. The meat should be just covered with liquid. If not, add additional stock to cover. Bring to a boil, then cover the pot and transfer to the

oven. Cook until the meat is tender, 2 to 2 1/2 hours, stirring occasionally. While the meat is cooking, heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the carrots, potatoes and onions and lightly season with salt. Saute until the vegetables begin to soften without browning, 4 to 5 minutes.

Add the carrots, onions and potatoes to the stew and stir to combine. Return to the oven and cook, partially covered, until the vegetables are tender and the sauce slightly thickened, 30 to 40 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove bay leaf and serve warm ladled into bowls.

## Even after getting vaccinated, many consumers won’t rush back to the malls – that’s good for their budgets, but bad for the economy

Even though most of us can’t wait to get the coronavirus vaccine, many consumers still wouldn’t feel comfortable venturing out afterward to splurge at their favorite stores.

Nearly a quarter of U.S. adults said they would avoid shopping at local businesses or dining inside restaurants despite being vaccinated, according to a new national survey of

2,305 U.S. adults conducted by YouGov on behalf of Bankrate. Contrast that with the 76 percent of Americans who say they would be very or somewhat comfortable going to the mall or eating out after receiving the coronavirus vaccine.

It’s a prudent move to stay cautious, as covid cases are still rising in many areas, new variants are cropping up and the number of reported covid-19 deaths has surpassed 500,000 in the U.S.

But the economy can’t fully recover until consumers do what they do best in America. Consumer spending can lift the economy overall, but it would be a shame if people went back to normal and forgot some important financial lessons forced on them because of the pandemic.

“Clearly, businesses of many shapes and sizes are in need of or are eager to embrace the consumers that they’ve been missing for so long,” says Mark Hamrick, senior economic analyst for Bankrate. “And we’ve seen enterprises of all kinds go belly up during this time. And so it is important,

obviously, for the consumer to reengage. But spending needs to be sustainable for the individuals. If consumers go overboard, then they’re going to run into an economic recovery hang-over of their own.”

Hamrick is concerned, as I am, that the broader need for businesses to put people back to work so that they can feed their families, pay for their housing, and hopefully have some money left over to save for their future financial needs will conflict with the necessity that many people continue being frugal.

Only 39 percent of Americans could cover an unexpected \$1,000 expense from their savings, such as a car repair or emergency room bill, according to a separate survey from Bankrate.com released last month.

The overwhelming majority would end up in debt: 38 percent of U.S. adults said they would have to borrow the money; 18 percent would need to use a credit card they couldn’t pay off right away, and 12 percent would borrow from family or friends. The remaining folks would reduce spending to find the money they need to handle the financial emergency.

For those spendthrifts whose incomes weren’t impacted by the coronavirus crisis, the pandemic pause created an opportunity for them to change their ways.

Since last March, as covid-19 crashed an almost decade-long consumer spending spree, people attending the monthly financial workshops I hold – now virtually – have testified about getting out of debt at last due to being stuck at home. Folks finally have emergency funds. They’ve

paid off their auto loans early or are contributing to a 529 college investment fund for their children.

Just two months into 2021, and workshop participants who follow the financial principles I’ve taught them reported paying off close to \$200,000 in debt.

Before the pandemic, consumer credit card debt grew for eight consecutive years, reaching a record high of \$829 billion in 2019, according to data collected by Experian, one of the three major credit bureaus. After the coronavirus hit, debt wasn’t just dropping – people were also using less of their credit lines, Experian found. The average consumer credit utilization ratio (how much you currently owe divided by your credit limit) dropped to 25 percent, the lowest it’s been in at least 10 years, according to Experian.

The U.S. personal savings rate soared in April of last year, reaching nearly 34 percent. It’s fallen since then, dropping to 13.7 percent in December, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

“Americans aren’t sure when they will return to normal, pre-COVID levels of activity for things like dining in at restaurants and attending in-person gatherings outside their household,” according to a recent Axios-Ipsos Coronavirus Index poll. “For both items, around one in four say they don’t know when they will do this, and then people are split on whether the signifier is when they/their circle are vaccinated when health officials say it is safe, or if they have already done this.”

Meanwhile, Hamrick said he’s also worried that many consumers, once they feel

safer to venture out to retail stores and restaurants, will engage in “revenge spending” to make up for the isolation they’ve experienced since the novel coronavirus hit the U.S.

Parents will give their children even bigger birthday parties. Families will take expensive vacations. Holiday spending at the end of this year will soar as people overspend after having to celebrate giftless with relatives on Zoom.

“We need to have our own social safety net,” Hamrick said. “I want to remind people that they should try to prioritize their savings and to pay down debt.”

The have nots were struggling before the pandemic, and business shutdowns and slowdowns make their financial situation even more precarious. They have no choice but to continue to pull back on their spending.

But you – the fortunate ones who can afford to save – shouldn’t relapse to retail therapy. Keep paying off those credit card balances. Scale back that big wedding. When things get back to normal, you shouldn’t rush to the malls. You were scared straight during the pandemic, and that was the best thing for your financial security.

*Readers can write to Michelle Singletary c/o The Washington Post, 1301 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20071. Her email address is michelle.singletary@washpost.com. Follow her on Twitter (@SingletaryM) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/MichelleSingletary). Comments and questions are welcome, but due to the volume of mail, personal responses may not be possible. Please also note comments or questions may be used in a future column, with the writer's name, unless a specific request to do otherwise is indicated.*

## We’re suffering from Zoom Fatigue – really, it’s a thing

**By SUE CARLTON**  
*Tampa Bay Times (TNS)*

I’ve never been good at meetings.

OK, so maybe nobody loves them. But even gatherings around the conference table with doughnuts somebody brought, colleagues I liked and goals I agreed with made me antsy. As the minutes ticked by, I’d wonder if we might have accomplished this with a memo.

Then came the pandemic that changed everything, including those old-school, in-person meetings. I miss them.

Now we video-meet on Zoom, Skype, Slack – pick your platform – staring at each other and, worse, ourselves, on our screens.

Why does video-conferencing seem so much more taxing?

Because it is, according to recent research from Stanford University’s Virtual Human Interaction Lab, and for some pretty intriguing reasons.

Not that screen meetings don’t have their small advantages. There’s the option of attending barefoot in yoga pants, or the off chance, at least when we were first getting used to all this Zooming, that a colleague rented a goat, llama or miniature donkey to crash and liven things up.

Without Zoom, we would never have been gifted with that recent court hearing that went viral in which a lawyer says he could not turn off a filter that gave him the face of a kitten.

Even before the Stan-

ford study, this phenomenon had a name: Zoom Fatigue. The study took a close look at the psychological consequences of spending hours on video chat platforms, also known as “nonverbal overload.”

First off, there’s just too much up-close eye contact.

Remember back when we all sat in a room looking at the person who was talking? In video chats, everyone is looking at you. Which, for obvious reasons, can be seriously stressful.

Also, the study notes, faces on these calls can sometimes appear unnaturally large, akin to someone right in your space.

“Think about that – in one-on-one meetings conducted over Zoom, co-workers and friends are maintaining an interpersonal distance reserved for loved ones,” the study notes. Awkward.

In fact, the Stanford News reported, the brain can interpret being that physically close as an intense situation that could lead to mating or conflict. This can leave participants who’ve been video conferencing for hours “in this hyper-aroused state,” according to communication professor Jeremy Bailenson, who authored the Zoom Fatigue report.

And no question, being forced to constantly see yourself – your every expression and movement – is just hard. You’ve heard of actors who say they can’t stand to watch themselves onscreen? These days, that’s called the weekly staff meeting.



VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON CHURCH SERVICES

**Bachelor Creek Church of Christ**

Online services are available by visiting [www.bachelorcreek.com](http://www.bachelorcreek.com).

**Catholic Church Province of Indianapolis**

According to Jennifer Simerman, secretary for communications for Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the following statement has been issued by the Catholic bishops of the Province of Indianapolis, which is comprised of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the dioceses of Gary, Lafayette, Fort Wayne-South Bend and Evansville: “While commending our pastors and pastoral life coordinators who have gone to great lengths to assure safe worship spaces in our churches, given the continued increase of COVID-19 cases in our state, the Indiana bishops hereby extend the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation beyond Sunday, Nov. 1 until further notice. The Indiana bishops will continue to monitor the situation to determine when it might be advisable to modify or lift the dispensation.” Specific liturgical directives and recommendations, as well as remote Mass participation and resource options, are available on the diocesan website at [www.diocesefwsb.org/covid-19](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/covid-19).

**Christ United Methodist Church**

On Sunday, March 7 worship service at Christ United Methodist Church, 477 N. Wabash St., is at 10 a.m. Pastor Tom Richards’ scripture reading will be Matthew 6:5-18 with a sermon reflection titled “Prayer and Fasting.” Worship service will also be live-streamed on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ChristUMC](http://www.facebook.com/ChristUMC).

[book.com/ChristUMC](http://book.com/ChristUMC) Wabash/.

**Christian Heritage Church**

Streaming services online and broadcast on 95.9 FM.

**College Corner Brethren Church**

Pastor Joe Bellone’s sermons are posted (with handouts) on both Facebook and YouTube under “College Corner Brethren Church.”

**Common Ground Prayer House**

The Common Ground Prayer House will be open to the public from 8 to 10 a.m. Mondays, except holidays, at 78 W. Hill St. COVID-19 precautions will be taken in the form of masks being worn by prayer house representatives and social distancing. For more information, call Jennifer Mahan at 260-571-8063, Shirley Neale at 260-591-0047 or Debbie Sweet at 260-571-6072.

**Dora Christian Church**

At the Sunday, March 7 services at the Dora Christian Church in Lago, the minister will be Mark Wisniewski, the song leader will be Olman Sanchez, the pianist Sherry Brock and the organist will be Kristy Good. We are still having two in-person mornings Sunday services at 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., with Sunday School classes for all ages from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Preacher Mark Wisniewski’s message for this Sunday will be, “The Tragedy of Missed Opportunities” from the Book of Jonah. The Communion Table will be served by Brad Frieden and Scott Hendry. There will be a Children’s Church provided for the 10:30 a.m. service, to be taught by Kelly and Lynnette Good. If you can’t

make it to the live services, Preacher Mark Wisniewski’s sermon will be posted on the Dora Christian Church Facebook group Sunday morning for all to see.

**LaFontaine Christian Church**

The LaFontaine Christian Church pre-records the sermon which is then available for all to view at [www.lafontainechristian.com](http://www.lafontainechristian.com) under the sermons tab, stated Pastor Brad Wright.

**LaFontaine United Methodist Church**

Pastor Susan Shambaugh says that her LaFontaine United Methodist Church is live-streaming on their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/LaFontaine-United-Methodist-Church> and that it may be accessed as a video afterward.

**Lincolnville United Methodist Church**

Lincolnville United Methodist, 5848 E. 500 South, is going back to one worship service starting Sunday, March 7. The worship service is at 10 a.m., and Sunday school is at 9 a.m. There will be an Easter egg hunt at 10 a.m. Sunday, March 27 at the church.

**Living Faith Lutheran Church**

Welcome to our in-person worship service at 10:10 a.m. Sundays at Living Faith Lutheran Church, 242 S. Huntington St. Bible study and Sunday school are at 9 a.m. for all ages. The sanctuary is arranged for social distancing. Masks are encouraged and available. Online services are at 10:10 a.m., with pre-service music at 10 a.m. For virtual services and more information, visit [www.livingfaith.org](http://www.livingfaith.org).

[wabash.org](http://wabash.org).

**Manchester Church of the Brethren**

Pastor Kurt Borgmann from the Manchester Church of the Brethren stated they will hold a live-stream service at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday by visiting [www.manchestercob.net](http://www.manchestercob.net). Scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on the black button that says, “Manchester CoB YouTube Channel.” After the service is finished, one may access a video copy of the live-stream in the same way. Another way to access the live-stream or posted video: go to YouTube, search “Manchester Church of the Brethren,” and click on the circle profile.

**North Manchester Congregational Christian Church**

Pastor Sebrena Cline stated live streaming begins on their Facebook page at 10 a.m. Sundays for the North Manchester Congregational Christian Church, and lasts 30 to 40 minutes.

**North Manchester Missionary Church**

The North Manchester Missionary Church is streaming live on their Facebook page at 10 a.m. Sunday. The video is then placed on their webpage, which can be viewed by visiting [NMMC1.com](http://NMMC1.com).

**Olive Branch Church of God**

The Olive Branch Church of God live-streams Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Find it through Facebook, by searching Olive Branch Church, or by visiting [www.facebook.com/myolivebranchchurch](http://www.facebook.com/myolivebranchchurch) or through the church website [www.olivebranch.church](http://www.olivebranch.church). Click “Live Streaming” at the top, then click the series icon (lion head).

**Roann United Methodist Church**

Pastor Wayne Balmer will have service in person at the church along with being online at 9 a.m. Sunday, March 7. The sermon will be taken from Hebrews 11:1 titled, “Faith.” Be taking up an offering for the Phiri and will celebrate Holy Communion.

**Southside Free Will Baptist**

Streaming on their Facebook page.

**Sweetwater Assembly of God**

Streaming services online using the normal service schedule.

**Urbana Yoke Parish**

Rev. Larry Wade of the Urbana Yoke Parish stated that his congregation posts Sunday services to [www.urbanayokeparish.com](http://www.urbanayokeparish.com). Go to the menu line at the top of the page and select “Worship Videos.” The most recent one will appear first. Sunday services are posted by noon every Tuesday.

**Wabash Church of the Brethren**

At the Wabash Church of the Brethren, Pastor Doug Veal is holding a Zoom meeting each Sunday for worship. The meeting is open at 10:15 a.m. so that everyone can be connected by 10:30 a.m. Join this church service by visiting <https://zoom.us/j/393263884> or by calling 312-626-6799 and enter meeting ID No. 393 263 884.

**Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) offers streaming at 9:30 a.m. Sundays both on their website at [wabashchristian.org](http://wabashchristian.org) and Facebook page, Wabash Christian Church. The minister is Rev. Haley Asberry.

**Wabash Church of the Nazarene**

Pastor Kirk Johnson, of the Wabash Church of the Nazarene, stated their service is available on YouTube on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Find it by going to YouTube and search for “Wabash Nazarene” or search Facebook for the Wabash Church of the Nazarene. Another option is to visit [www.wabashnaz.com](http://www.wabashnaz.com), look for the home page, and find “Latest Sermon.”

**Wabash First Church of God**

At the 10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 7 worship service, Pastor Robb Rensberger will speak on “The Poison of Complaint.” The sermon can also be seen on YouTube under Wabash 1st Church and heard at 11 a.m. Sunday on 105.9 FM. While in the church building, masks are optional but we do practice social distancing. Sunday servants are Dorothy Carpenter, chairperson; Sue White, worship; Rose Sands, piano; and Nancy Kolb, organ.

**Walk By Faith Community Church**

Pastor Greg Wilburn of Roann’s Walk By Faith Community Church says to access his online sermons at [www.walkbyfaithcommunitychurch.com](http://www.walkbyfaithcommunitychurch.com).

**Zion Lutheran Church of Wabash**

Pastor Jerry Gauthier says that the Zion Lutheran Church of Wabash is streaming through their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/zionwabash](http://www.facebook.com/zionwabash) at 10:30 a.m. Sundays.

*Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to [news@wabashplainedealer.com](mailto:news@wabashplainedealer.com) no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.*

PULSE

From page A1

opening back up” on Tuesday, March 9 for their regularly scheduled luncheon and program, hosting Jason Kissel, according to Ellen Stouffer. Lunch will begin at noon, with the program on “Wildflowers of Wabash County” beginning at 1 p.m. Emmilee Dewey will provide a special dessert and have some goodies for sale. Carry-out will be provided for anyone who can’t come but would like a lunch. Make your reservation for lunch or carry-out by calling Carol McDonald at 260-5632331 or Mary Delauter at 260-563-6613. For more information, call Stouffer at 260-571-5339.

**Frances Slocum Chapter of the DAR to hold March meeting**

Wabash County Frances Slocum Chapter of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, at the Grandstaff Hentgen Activity Room, 1241 Manchester Ave. The program will be given by Brenda Ramseier, on her painting of the women suffragist and the 19th Amendment. Prospective members and guests are always welcome to attend. DAR membership is open to any woman 18 years of age, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. Those having questions about their family history lineage information may contact [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org) or Linda Thompson at 260-563-4661 or Barbara Amiss at 260-982-4376.

**Grow Wabash County hosting Process Communication workshop**

Registration is now open for Grow Wabash County’s Process Communication Model (PCM) workshop scheduled for Monday, May 3 through Wednesday, May 5, at the Grow Wabash County office. Tuition for the workshop will be \$550 until March 9, when the cost will go up to \$600. The tuition fee will cover the participant’s course fees, an in-depth personalized PCM profile, and snacks and meals throughout the workshop. Those interested or representatives for their companies can do so at [www.growwabashcounty.com/pcmworkshop](http://www.growwabashcounty.com/pcmworkshop) or by contacting Grow Wabash County by email [info@growwabashcounty.com](mailto:info@growwabashcounty.com) or by phone at 260-563-5258.

**Public, WHS staff invited to superintendent search meetings**

The Wabash City Schools (WCS) board has officially begun the search for its new superintendent and your chance to make your voice heard and have your questions answered is fast approaching. Each session will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on various selected days in the auditorium at Wabash Middle School (WMS), 150 Cole-rain St. Dates for the work sessions include Wednesday, March 10 for staff at Wabash High School (WHS); and Thursday, March 11 for members of the community.

**Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distributions**

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester; and 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 24 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15. For more information, visit [www.curehunger.org](http://www.curehunger.org), [campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182](http://campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182) or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

**Manchester University Virtual Career Fair set for Wednesday**

The virtual career fair is 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 on Handshake, an online platform that helps students connect with potential employers. This fair is for undergraduate students from the North Manchester campus. Register by visiting <https://link.manchester.edu/careerfair> or email CareerDevelopment@manchester.edu.

**Salute to Ag Dinner planned for March 10**

The 2021 Salute to Ag Dinner will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 at the Heartland REMC building, 350 Wedcor Ave. Tickets are \$20 each and sponsorship opportunities are available ranging from \$100 to \$2,500. For more information, visit [growwabashcounty.com/ag2021](http://growwabashcounty.com/ag2021) or email [marketing@growwabashcounty.com](mailto:marketing@growwabashcounty.com) or call

260-563-5258.

**Southwood, Metro North Kindergarten Round-Ups announced**

Children who will be at least five years of age on or before Aug. 1 are eligible to participate in kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school year. Southwood Elementary will host their Round-Up on Wednesday, March 10, and Metro North Elementary will hold theirs on Thursday, March 11. Families must register for Kindergarten Round-Up no later than March 8. To register, visit [www.ms-dwc.k12.in.us](http://www.ms-dwc.k12.in.us). For more information about Southwood Elementary School, email Principal Phil Boone at [boonepr@msdwc.k12.in.us](mailto:boonepr@msdwc.k12.in.us). For more information about Metro North Elementary School, email Principal Janette Moore at [moorej@msdwc.k12.in.us](mailto:moorej@msdwc.k12.in.us).

**Visit Wabash County plans annual St. Trolley’s Day Tour**

Visit Wabash County has announced tickets are on sale for the annual St. Trolley’s Day Tour set for Saturday, March 13. The St. Trolley’s Day Tour is \$30 per person, due at registration, and is all-inclusive for those 21 and older. To register, visit [www.VisitWabashCounty.com/trolley-tours](http://www.VisitWabashCounty.com/trolley-tours), visit 221 S. Miami St. or call 260-563-7171.


**Wabash County Animal Shelter partnership to pair emerging readers with dogs, cats**

The local Literacy for



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To place a classified ad in The Wabash Plain Dealer, call (260) 225-4949 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. or visit our website, [www.wabashplainedealer.com](http://www.wabashplainedealer.com). Walk-in office hours are 9 - 11:30 a.m. and 1 - 4 p.m.



Grandpa's fishing poles aren't going to sell themselves.

To place a classified ad in The Wabash Plain Dealer, call (260) 225-4949 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. or visit our website, [www.wabashplainedealer.com](http://www.wabashplainedealer.com). Walk-in office hours are 9 - 11:30 a.m. and 1 - 4 p.m.

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## HCAC announces 2021 baseball preseason poll

Manchester was tabbed eighth, earning 35 points

By DILLON BENDER

With the 2021 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference baseball season scheduled to begin next weekend, the Franklin College Grizzlies have been selected to win the league, in a vote amongst league coaches announced on Monday, Feb. 22.

The Grizzlies picked up 90 points in Monday’s preseason poll. Franklin still reigns as the most current HCAC Champion, winning the league title in 2019. The 2020 season was cut well short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Not far behind, Anderson University was picked to finish second with 84 points.

Transylvania (77), Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (74) and Earlham College (53) rounded out the top five of the preseason poll.

Manchester was tabbed eighth in the poll, earning 35 points.

The Black and Gold had four seniors listed as “Players to Watch” by the HCAC.

Outfielder Joe Henschel, from Huntertown and Carroll High School, is a career .295 hitter with seven home runs and 42 RBI to his credit. In just six games last season, Henschel hit .409 with seven of his nine hits going for extra bases (4 doubles, 1 triple, and 2 home runs).

Catcher Brett Kron, from Cincinnati, Ohio, and Oak Hills High School, was also listed as a “Player to Watch” by the league office. Kron was a Second Team All-HCAC performer in 2019. He has a career batting aver-

age of .274 and a career on-base percentage of .421.

Shortstop Michael Pinarski, from Goshen, has appeared in 71 games during his Manchester career. 17 of his 54 career hits have gone for extra bases (12 doubles, 3 triples, 2 home runs,). Pinarski has also swiped 10 bases in his career.

Pitcher Keegan Stevens, from Rensselaer and St. Joseph’s College, will look to be a key member of the MU pitching staff this spring. Stevens was able to start a pair of games last spring before the season was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Spartans are currently scheduled to host Franklin College in a doubleheader at noon Saturday, March 6. Please note that the schedule is subject to change.

*Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*



Catcher Brett Kron, from Cincinnati, Ohio, and Oak Hills High School, was listed as a “Player to Watch” by the league office

## Buckner’s late free throws send Spartans to HCAC semifinals

Manchester will host Franklin College on Sunday

By DILLON BENDER

Senior Cortiz Buckner, from Lafayette and Lafayette Jefferson High School, made a pair of free throws with 5.6 seconds left in regulation to lift the Manchester University men’s basketball team past rival Anderson 64-63 in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) Tournament Quarterfinals on Wednesday night.

After trailing by 10 in the first half, Manchester used a massive 21-3 run to get back into the game. After five quick points by AU tied the game at 33, Cortiz Buckner knocked in a triple to put the

Black and Gold ahead 36-33 at the intermission.

Manchester opened the second period with some hot perimeter shooting. Rookie Jackson Jannsen, from Carmel, nailed a couple of 3-pointers in transition and Manchester built an 11-point lead, 48-37 with 14:54 left in regulation.

The visiting Ravens did claw their way back into Wednesday’s contest as Manchester hit a cold spell offensively. A 3-pointer by Anderson’s Alex Hunt tied the game at 58 with just under three minutes to play.

With 1:05 left on the game clock, senior CJ Hampton, from Hammond and Griffith High School, sunk a pair of free throws to put the Black and Gold ahead 62-60.

After Anderson made 1-of-2 free throws on its next possession, the Ravens forced a

turnover with just under 30 seconds to play. Two-time HCAC Player of the Week Ronny Williams came up with a steal and converted a fast-break layup that put AU ahead 63-62.

Following a timeout, Cortiz Buckner drove to the basket and was fouled by Anderson’s Gavin Dowling. Buckner, who came into tonight’s contest as a 70 percent free-throw shooter on the season, calmly knocked down both shots to give the lead back to Manchester.

Anderson’s Ronny Williams’ 30-footer at the buzzer fell just short, clanking off the front of the iron.

In a hectic finish that lived up to the hype that is March Madness, the Spartans were able to grind out a gutsy win over the rival Ravens.

Manchester scored 33 points off of 22 Anderson

turnovers.

Buckner led all scorers on Wednesday night with 20 points. He added 7 rebounds. Brandon Christlieb, from Ashley and Prairie Heights High School, added 18 points on the strength of 6-of-11 shooting from the floor. Christlieb also made a trio of 3-pointers. Jackson Jannsen made 5-of-7 shots, including 4-of-5 from downtown in his 14-point performance for Manchester.

Ronny Williams was the only Raven to score in double figures, finishing Wednesday’s game with 19 points.

Manchester (4-9) will host Franklin College on Sunday, March 7, in the HCAC Semifinals inside of Stauffer-Wolfe Arena. Game time is still to be determined.

Anderson concludes its season with a record of 8-6.

## Transylvania overcomes hot start by Spartans to advance to HCAC semis

MU concluded their 2020-21 season on Wednesday

By DILLON BENDER

The no. 5 seed Transylvania University Pioneers overcame a hot start by the no. 4 seed Manchester University Spartans in Wednesday’s HCAC Quarterfinal matchup in Stauffer-Wolfe Arena.

Transylvania advanced to the HCAC Semifinals after topping Manchester 71-57.

The Black and Gold got off to a great start in Wednesday’s contests, racing out to a 14-4 lead six minutes into the game thanks to a flurry of baskets by junior forward Macy Miller, from Huntertown and Carroll High School. The Pioneers would find their footing and closed the quarter on an 11-5 run. Manchester led 19-15 after 10 minutes of play.

The Pioneers would go on to outscore Manchester 18-6 in the second period to hold a 33-25 lead at the intermission.

Transylvania’s offense continued to stay hot in the third frame as the Pioneers shot 50 percent (7-14) from the field. Transylvania outscored MU 21-14 in the third period to grab a hold of control of Wednesday’s game.

For the contest, the Pioneers finished 28-of-58 from the field, good enough for 48.3 percent. Manchester was limited to 36.2 percent (21-58) shooting for the game.

Transylvania held a 48-28 in the rebounding department. TU’s bench also scored

32 points.

Junior Bridget Nash, from Carmel and Bishop Chatard High School, led Manchester with 13 points on Wednesday. Macy Miller added 12 points, four rebounds and two steals. 10 different Spartans scored a basket in Wednesday’s quarterfinal matchup.

Transylvania (12-6) was led by Dasia Thornton’s 15 points off the bench. The Pioneers will advance to the HCAC Tournament Semifinals slated for this weekend.

Manchester (4-15) concluded the 2020-21 season.

## Manchester men’s soccer opens with 3-1 road victory at Franklin

Spartans head to Transylvanian on Saturday, March 6

By DILLON BENDER

It had been more than 480 days since the Manchester University men’s soccer team last saw action. The Black and Gold took to the pitch tonight on the road at Franklin College, and the Spartans did not come back home empty-handed.

Manchester used a trio of second-half goals to earn a 3-1 victory over the Grizzlies to open Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference play.

After both teams played to a scoreless draw through the game’s first 45 minutes of action, Manchester would go on to net the game’s first goal of the night.

In the 53rd minute, sophomore Ruben Gonzalez, from Sylvania, Ohio and Sylvania Northview High School, sent a corner kick to the far side of the box that was speared into

the back of the net by freshman Jacob Knepper, from Indianapolis and Mt. Vernon High School.

Manchester would push its lead to 2-0 in the 62nd minute when freshman Harley Kruschwitz, from North Manchester and Manchester High School, scored his first career goal.

The Grizzlies showed some life late in Tuesday’s contest. A goal by Franklin’s Eddy Yousak in the 81st minute got the Grizzlies on the scoreboard.

Just three minutes later, Manchester’s Josh Gonzalez (Portage, Ind./Portage) converted a penalty kick to seal the game for the Black and Gold.

Franklin held a 9-8 advantage in shots on Tuesday, but the Spartans commanded a 9-3 margin in corner kicks.

Manchester (1-0, 1-0 HCAC) will head to Transylvanian on Saturday, March 6, for a 3:30 p.m. matchup with the Pioneers.

Franklin (0-1, 0-1 HCAC) will travel to Defiance College on Saturday, March 6.

## Spartan soccer drop home opener to Franklin

Grizzlies outshot MU 10-2 on Tuesday

By DILLON BENDER

Manchester University and Franklin College met in the brand new Spartan Stadium on Tuesday afternoon to kickoff Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference play.

The visiting Grizzlies topped the MU women’s soccer squad by a final score of 4-0.

The Grizzlies opened the scoring with a goal in the ninth minute. FC’s Lilly Haines found Katelyn Duff in the box, who quickly turned and fired a shot past Manchester keeper Cate Bennett.

Franklin’s Elaina Page put the visiting Grizzlies ahead

2-0 in the 20th minute with an unassisted goal. Katelyn Duff struck once more for FC, scoring her second goal of the match in the 27th minute.

Erin Thomas scored the final goal for Franklin in the 55th minute. Lilly Haines picked up her second assist on the afternoon on the Thomas goal.

Franklin held a 10-2 advantage in the shot department on Tuesday.

MU goalie Cate Bennett, from Hartford City and Blackford High School, collected four saves in goal.

The Spartans (0-1, 0-1 HCAC) will head to Transylvania at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 6.

Franklin (1-0, 1-0 HCAC) will travel to Rose-Hulman at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 10.

### SCOREBOARD

NBA	Columbus 3, Dallas 2 Calgary 7, Ottawa 3 Vancouver 3, Toronto 1
Thursday's Games	<b>Saturday's Games</b> Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders, 1 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey, 1 p.m. Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m. Florida at Nashville, 2 p.m. Minnesota at Arizona, 7 p.m. Toronto at Vancouver, 7 p.m. Winnipeg at Montreal, 7 p.m. Anaheim at Colorado, 8 p.m. Columbus at Dallas, 8 p.m. St. Louis at Los Angeles, 9 p.m. Calgary at Edmonton, 10 p.m. Vegas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
NHL	<b>Sunday's Games</b> Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders, 12 p.m. Tampa Bay at Chicago, 2:30 p.m. Florida at Carolina, 5 p.m. New Jersey at Boston, 5 p.m. Washington at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m. Nashville at Dallas, 8 p.m. Ottawa at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.
Thursday's Games	N.Y. Islanders 5, Buffalo 2 Winnipeg 4, Montreal 3, OT Philadelphia 4, Pittsburgh 3 N.Y. Rangers 6, New Jersey 1 Carolina 5, Detroit 2 Tampa Bay 3, Chicago 2, OT Florida 5, Nashville 4

## MU indoor track and field concludes at DePauw

The men competed against both Wabash and DePauw; women with DePauw only

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University indoor track and field teams wrapped up their 2021 indoor season on the afternoon of Saturday, Feb. 27 at DePauw.

The men competed against both Wabash and DePauw. Wabash won the meet with 92 team points. DePauw scored 39 points, while MU rounded out the scoring with 30 points.

On the women’s side, DePauw won Saturday’s head-to-head matchup with Spartans 74-59.

#### Men's top performances

Tristen Bronaugh, from Crawfordsville, placed second in the 60-meter dash with

a time of 7.45 – a new personal best for the freshman. Dylan Nicley, from Indianapolis and Christel House Academy, added a runner-up finish in the 800 meters., crossing the tape with a time of 2:49.79, which was also a new PR for the freshman.

Connor Havens, from LaPorte, and Thomas Richardson, from Ladoga and Southmont High School, placed third and fourth in the 3000m with respective times of 8:47.01 and 8:52.64. Both times were personal bests for Havens and Richardson.

Zackary Freel, from South Whitley and Whitko High School, placed third in the high jump, clearing 1.70m (5’ 7”) on Saturday. Freel added a fourth-place finish in the long jump.

Ben Villafuerte, Gabe Hen-

dricks and Corey Nowlen went 3-4-5 in the shot put event.

Joe Garling, Nowlen, Hendricks and Conner Sherwin took home the 2-5 placements in the weight throw.

#### Women's top performances

The distance unit for the Spartans had another strong day. Kelsey Tyler, from Rochester, won the 3000 meters with a leading time of 10:50.41. Not far behind in second and third place were Hannah Brubaker, from Goshen and NorthWood High School, and Lauren Smith, from Anderson and Lapel High School, with respective times of 10:54.36 and 11:02.12.

Fiona Frost, from Indianapolis and Lawrence Central High School, led an all-Manchester field in the 5000 meters with a leading time of

19:44.90.

Senior Elizabeth Russell, from Columbia City, placed second in the 60-meter hurdles. She also placed fourth in the 60-meter dash.

Adelle Stanko, from Okeanos, Michigan, won the long jump with a top mark of 4.59m (14’ 0 ¾”), while Kendal Garringer, from Portland and Jay County High School, took home first place in the triple jump with a personal-best mark of 9.68m (31’ 9. ¼). Garringer’s mark also landed her seventh all-time in the MU record books.

Erica Mohr, from Wayne, Ohio and Wayne Trace High School, won the weight throw on Saturday with a leading mark of 13.51m (44’ 4”). Mohr added a fourth-place finish in the shot put.

Tara Conley, from Culver and Knox High School, added second-place finishes in both the shot put and weight throw.



# High school sweethearts reunited by child they gave up

By **DANA HUNSINGER BENBOW**  
The Indianapolis Star

INDIANAPOLIS — How their teenage love story would end was beyond their control. Donna Horn, a beautiful cheerleader, was pregnant. Joe Cougill, a star high school athlete, was the father.

On a spring day in 1968, the Cougill and Horn families sat down to talk, but mostly it was the fathers who talked.

“Joe will do whatever you want him to,” Joe’s dad said to Donna’s dad, according to Cougill. “If you want Joe to marry Donna, he will marry Donna. If you want Joe to keep this secret, Joe will keep it secret. If you want Donna to have the baby, Joe will support her. If you don’t want him to be part of her life, Joe won’t.”

Donna’s father wanted Joe to never speak to his daughter again.

Amid the tears and heart-break brought on by an abrupt end to a two-year love story, the mandate was issued by the parents, and the promise was made by the teens. Joe would never call Donna again and Donna would never call Joe again.

For five decades, they made good on that promise. Until one day, 51 years later, their baby girl who’d been put up for adoption found them. She brought them together.

And they fell in love all over again.

Joe was in the office of an auto dealership in Greenfield, waiting to have lunch with his son, who sells cars for a living. It was June 29, 2019, and across his phone came a text from a woman named Laura Mabry.

“Hi Joe, I got your name from Donna. I don’t know how to lob this to you but I think you’re my biological father. I don’t want anything from you. I just want

to find out where I came from.”

“My freaking head just dropped onto the desk, going, ‘What?’” said Joe, who was a 3-sport athlete at Franklin Central. “Obviously, Donna and I spent two years together in high school. Obviously, we knew she got pregnant.”

But Joe never knew what had happened after that. Did Donna have the baby? Did she keep the baby? Was it a boy or a girl? Did she put the baby up for adoption?

Joe knows it sounds strange, but over the years there has been a certain patch of grass in his yard and when he mowed that patch, he would think about Donna.

“And I thought, ‘Do I have a son? Do I have a daughter?’” he said. “I can’t tell you over the years how many times I had wondered.”

Laura had wondered, too. What were her biological parents like? She had grown up with a wonderful mom and dad, a great life. She had attended Franklin Central just like Joe and Donna.

“But as an adopted person, you always grow up thinking, ‘I don’t really look like my family,’” said Laura, who now lives in Arkansas. “I did always have a general curiosity. It wasn’t nagging at me, but it was always there.”

Then in 1995, Laura had her son. And in 1998, she had her daughter.

“It was the first time in my life that a biological person really looked like me,” she said. “I look like this person and it made me think, there is someone else that looks like me.”

Her curiosity to find out where she came from, who her biological parents were, grew more intense. But it was the 1990s, and the internet and searching and connecting wasn’t as easy as it is today.

Then life got in the way. Laura pushed the idea to the back of her mind, but it never left.

They had met in the fall as the leaves turned and classes began. Joe was a freshman and Donna a sophomore.

Except for school, they didn’t see each other much in the beginning. A sweet smile in the hallway, a wink at lunch, a note passed after class. During the week, they weren’t allowed to date.

At home each evening, though, their parents let them have a 10-minute phone call. Joe and Donna would try to find a spot in the house where they could whisper their feelings so no one else in the house could hear.

“We were first loves,” Joe said. “She was all I wanted, and I was all she wanted.”

At school, Joe was a superstar. He was the starting varsity quarterback as a freshman, then started on the varsity basketball team. During track season in the spring, he was the second-fastest runner on the squad. The next year he became Franklin Central’s star baseball pitcher.

Donna went to all Joe’s events she could get to, even if just to catch a glimpse of him. The weekends were what they longed for. Sometimes, they were allowed to hang out on a lazy Saturday at one of their houses.

“We never had a disagreement or argument. We just got along tremendously,” Joe said. “We liked hanging out with each other. It was obvious first love.”

And then Joe got his driver’s license December 1967. His mom had a 1962 Chevy station wagon.

“The seat folded right down,” Joe said.

Donna found out she was pregnant at the beginning of April. The families had that talk. The two were told their relationship was over.

The Horns had already planned to move in the fall of Donna’s senior year. She had planned to finish her last year of high school out at Franklin Central, but after the pregnancy, the move was a perfect explanation for why she was gone.

“People just assumed I moved away,” she said. But losing Joe, “it was devastating to me.”

Donna remembers as if it were yesterday, going to Community East hospital Nov. 5, 1968. She was in labor and she was devastated. This was not the day she wanted to have the baby.

Nov. 5 was Joe’s 17th birthday and she loved him. It was another brutal reminder they weren’t together.

And then when Donna walked in that morning, Joe’s mother, who worked as a patient representative at that hospital, was the first person Donna and her mother saw. Another reminder.

“That’s the first time I ever heard my mother swear in my ear,” said Donna.

Inside the delivery room, Donna gave birth to the baby she planned to never see again. She and her mother had talked about it at length. After the baby was born, Donna wouldn’t hold the baby. She wouldn’t look at the baby.

“There was some mistake,” Donna said.

A nurse walked in and placed Laura in Donna’s arms. For 30 minutes, she held her baby girl.

“That has haunted me,” Donna said.

Joe knows how much easier he had it, a teenage father who had none of the responsibilities of a father, who went on with his life. His name was in newspaper articles weekly for all of his sports accolades.

“Was there talk? Was there discussion? Were there rumors? Absolutely,”

he said. “Everybody wanted to know.”

Joe kept quiet. He had a hard time getting past the heartache, though. He didn’t go on a single date his junior year. And he had plenty of girls asking.

He thought about Donna and what she was going through, the emotional and physical toll placed on her. “Her feelings and the things she went through,” Joe said, “were 100 times more magnified than mine.”

Joe went on to Indiana State where he played football. In the five decades since he and Donna parted, he married and divorced twice, taught high school, coached and owned a sunglasses company. In 2019, he was a single man, working at Walmart and the father of two children.

Donna earned her high school diploma and worked at the Fort Benjamin Harrison finance center. She married twice; her second husband passed away from cancer in 2011. Donna, a breast cancer survivor, had three children. In 2019, Donna was a single woman.

Both were doing just fine in life. Neither knew what was coming.

But 2019 was the year Laura’s husband got her a 23andMe DNA and genetic testing kit as a gift. He had seen her sobbing as she watched TLC’s “Long Lost Family,” as people were reunited with their biological relatives.

Laura was sitting in bed when the results came in. You have a relative, an uncle with the last name Horn. She read it again. And again.

“Oh my gosh, that’s got to be (Donna’s) brother,” Laura said to herself. Her mom had told her only Donna’s maiden name and that she’d been born at Community East. “I got this rush of emotions.”

Then Donna’s sister

popped up as a relative. Laura mailed her a letter, thinking she might be her biological mother. She sent both of them her contact information. Laura was sitting in her office at the University of Arkansas when the email came across.

It was Donna reaching out. I am your biological mother. I feel like I owe you this. Whatever you want to know.

“I went into my boss and colleagues’ office and said, ‘You guys are not going to believe this,’” Laura said. “I just could not believe it. I had been waiting all these years.”

Donna offered Laura the name of her biological father. In another twist of fate Laura already knew of Joe. Her best friend in high school had married Joe’s nephew.

When she talked to Joe on the phone for the first time, the first words out of his mouth was this: “Oh gosh, if you look anything like Donna I bet you’re so pretty.”

Laura thought that was so sweet, after all these years, that love in his voice. Laura helped Donna and Joe get in touch. The two started talking and never stopped. When they met, they hugged and it felt like 50 years melted away.

“We saw each other and we hugged each other and we cried,” Joe said. “We knew. We knew. You know what I mean?”

They were married in May.

Bringing her biological parents back together is not what Laura had intended when she went looking for them. All she wanted was to find out where she came from. To ask if she was born out of love.

“It really does feel good to be part of ...” Laura trails off. To be part of finishing out that teenage love story.

And yes. The answer is yes. She was born out of love.



Construction of a bridge over the East Street railroad crossing, shown here, is estimated to begin in 2023.

## BRIDGE

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unobstructed north-south access, reducing delays in emergency response times,” said Manning.

Manning said the project study area includes Wabash Street to the west, the Wabash River to the east, Elm Street to the north and East Main Street to the south.

Manning said this project and intersection was submitted by the city to INDOT for consideration when the Local Trax call for projects was held in 2018.

“It’s not a case where INDOT selected this intersection over others,” said Manning.

Manning said six “build” alternatives and one “no build” alternative was

analyzed.

“The engineers report updated in June 2020 determined that constructing the overpass at East Street best met the purpose of the project,” said Manning. “The city and INDOT have proposed closing the railroad intersections at Spring, Huntington and Thorne streets once construction is complete. Special consideration was given to minimize impacts to cultural and historic resources.”

Manning said there will be temporary and permanent right-of-way that will be acquired for this project.

Manning said construction is estimated to begin in 2023.

The first meeting will be a Zoom meeting, including a presentation, starting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 9.

The meeting ID is 996 2544 3409 and the passcode is 594249.

The second meeting will be an in-person public open house hosted from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 16, at the Eagles Theater’s in the fourth-floor ballroom, 106 W. Market St.

“There will be displays and representatives available to answer residents’ questions throughout the open house,” said Manning. “The public open house will follow Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) guidance for health and safety protocols.”

For more information, visit [www.cityofwabash.com/traxproject](http://www.cityofwabash.com/traxproject).

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).

the Associated Press.

A memo issued by the State Budget Agency directed department leaders to take action for reducing expenses, along with no

vehicle or furniture purchases.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).

## DEPUTY

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financial hit from the coronavirus crisis, according to

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<b>2018 CHEVROLET CRUZE LT</b> AUTO, A/C, REAR CAMERA, 37,000 MILES  <b>\$15,200</b>	<b>2012 BUICK ENCLAVE</b> FWD, PREMIUM, LOADED, 98,000 MILES  <b>\$13,500</b>	<b>2017 JEEP COMPASS</b> HIGH ALTITUDE 4X4 W/ SUNROOF, 53,000 MILES  <b>\$16,900</b>
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